

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 3146

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot program for providing services to certain children under the Medicaid medical transportation program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.024141 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.024141. PILOT PROJECT FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM SERVICES FOR CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING PREGNANT MOTHERS. (a) The commission shall develop and implement a pilot program to enable an eligible child described by Subsection (b) to receive medical transportation program services and to provide reimbursement for those services in order to:

(1) increase access to prenatal and postpartum care;

(2) reduce pregnancy-related complications;

(3) improve health outcomes for pregnant women and infants; and

(4) reduce the maternal mortality and morbidity rate.

(b) A child is eligible for inclusion in the pilot program established under this section:

(1) if the child's mother is:

(A) a recipient of Medicaid during a pregnancy;

and

(B) is using medical transportation program services to travel to and from a covered health care service related

1 to the pregnancy, including postpartum care; and

2 (2) regardless of whether the child is also a  
3 recipient of Medicaid.

4 (c) The pilot program shall be implemented in more than one  
5 health care service region.

6 (d) The commission, with the assistance of the maternal  
7 mortality and morbidity task force established under Chapter 34,  
8 Health and Safety Code, shall evaluate the results of the pilot  
9 program and determine whether the program is effective in  
10 increasing access to prenatal and postpartum care, reducing  
11 pregnancy-related complications, improving health outcomes for  
12 pregnant women and their newborn children, and reducing the  
13 maternal mortality and morbidity rate. The evaluation must be  
14 based on:

15 (1) the health outcomes of the pregnant women whose  
16 children participated in the program and of the women's newborn  
17 children; or

18 (2) an assessment of the overall health care and  
19 pregnancy outcomes and trends in this state during the period of the  
20 program.

21 (e) Not later than September 1, 2019, the commission shall  
22 report to the legislature on the results of the pilot program. The  
23 report must include:

24 (1) a summary of the commission's evaluation under  
25 Subsection (d); and

26 (2) the impact on costs under the medical  
27 transportation program.

1        (f) The executive commissioner may adopt rules to implement  
2 this section.

3        (g) This section expires September 1, 2019.

4        SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
5 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
6 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
7 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
8 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
9 waiver or authorization is granted.

10       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.